

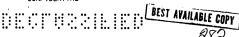
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-2- 387, AUGUST 21, 6 PM FROM BONN

SEEN FROM DOMESTIC INTERNAL POLITICAL VIEWPOINT, CHANCELLOR AND CDU LEADERS PROBABLY FEEL CERTAIN AMOUNT OF IRRITATION OVER FACT THAT BRANDT HAS STOLEN THE HEADLINES IN THE PAST . FEW DAYS, ESPECIALLY DURING THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO BERLIN. BRANDT'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT KENNEDY VISIBLY IRRITATED COU LEADERS. PRESS HAS WIDELY REPORTED CHANCELLOR WISHED TO ACCOMPANY VICE PRESIDENT TO BERLIN, BUT DID NOT DO SO BECAUSE SUCH MOVE MIGHT HAVE BEEN INTERPRETED AS U.S. INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC ELECTION CAMPAIGN. WHILE THE IRRITATION NOTED ABOVE EXISTS. EMB DOUBTS THAT IT BASED ON ANY LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN COU RANKS ABOUT OUTCOME OF ELECTION. IRRITATION IS MORE LIKELY DUE TO FACT THAT CHANCELLOR REACTS ADVERSELY TO ANY EVENT WHICH DISTRACTS VOTERS FROM CONCENTRA-TION UPON MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE IN HIS VIEW. I.E. CHOICE BETWEEN TIME-TESTED COU POLICIES UNDER HIS LEADER-SHIP WHICH HAVE BROUGHT SECURITY AND PROSPERITY TO FEDREP AND THOSE OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION WHICH HAS ONLY RECENTLY SOUGHT TO EMULATE CDU'S POLICIES.

CHANCELLOR INDEED CONTINUES TO CAST DOUBT UPON SPOIS UNDERSTANDING OF NECESSITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN ATLANTIC ALLIANCE
AND DEFENSE PREPARENESS. CHANCELLOR HAS LITTLE INSTINCT
FOR OVER-CONFIDENCE IN DOMESTIC FOLITICAL TESTS OF STRENGTH
AND PROBABLY DISLIKES THOUGHT THAT OPPONENT MIGHT GAIN VOTES
THROUGH EXPLOITATION OF BERLIN CRISIS. SO FAR AS WE KNOW,
AND DESPITE IDEAS OF OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS, MENDE, FOR EXAMPLE,
HE FAVORS HOLDING ELECTIONS AS SCHEDULED AND CONTINUATION
"LECTORAL CAMPAIGN IN ITS PRESENT FORM. WHILE MANY WEST
GERMAN VOTERS UNDOUBTEDLY FEEL BOTH INCREASED SYMPATHY AND
RESPECT FOR BRANDT AS VIGOROUS MAYOR OF EMBATTLED BERLIN, THEY
PROBABLY DQ NOT EQUATE THIS FEELING FOR A VOTE FOR SPO.
CHANCELLOR'S CALL FOR CALM, CLOSE COOPERATION OF ALLIES AND
EVENTUAL NEGOTIATION WITH SOVIETS SEEMS CLOSELY ATTUNED TO
WEST GERMAN PUBLIC MOOD DESPITE EMOTIONS OF THE MOMENT.

REAL IMPACT

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REAL IMPACT OF RECENT EVENTS MAY ONLY COME AFTER ELECTIONS WHEN UPON REFLECTION PEOPLE OF FEDREP MAY THINK ABOUT REALITIES OF REUNIFICATION AND EASTERN FRONTIER AS MANIFESTED BY PHYSICAL DIVISION OF GERMANY AND SEPARATION OF EAST BERLIN FROM WEST. SOME POLITICIANS THEN MAY TRY TO CAPITALIZE ON APPARENT FAILURE OF LONGSTANDING CDU CLAIM THAT FIRM ALLIANCE WITH WEST WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD TO REUNIFICATION. FULLER ASSESSMENT IMPACT OF BERLIN CRISIS UPON WEST GERMAN POLITICAL SCENE FOLLOWS BY DESPATCH.

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